



WISCONSIN REGULATORY DIGEST

A Publication of the PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

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New Caregiver Law - 1997 WI Act 27

On October 1, 1998, a new Wisconsin law went into effect which provides new and stringent checks of the backgrounds of persons who provide care for others or have access to persons receiving care.

Beginning on October 1, 1998, the state of Wisconsin mandated that background checks will be required for all persons who seek to be employed in the caregiving industry and for all persons who want to obtain or renew a license to provide care. By October 1, 1999, all existing employees/contractors and license holders must have fulfilled the caregiver background check requirements.

A completed background check as prescribed under Wisconsin's law includes:

- * A completed self-disclosure Background Information Disclosure form;

THE WISCONSIN PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

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- * An electronic status check of professional licenses and credentials through the Department of Regulation and Licensing;
- * An electronic criminal history search from the Wisconsin Department of Justice;
- * An electronic review of records kept by the Department of Health and Family Services for any substantiated findings of abuse or neglect and license restrictions or denials.

Based on the information obtained, additional research may include an out-of-state criminal history search, a tribal court criminal history search, a check of relevant military records or a check of county or other local records.

Once the background research is complete, employers and government agencies are expected to act according to the requirements of the new law coupled with prudent business practices. These new background checks will be used by the state in making employment and licensing decisions since various studies have shown predictable patterns of abuse, neglect and misappropriation. Therefore, a background which includes specific crimes and offenses will effectively exclude individuals from certain employment or prohibit them from obtaining a license to practice certain professions.

Those who wish to obtain more detailed information regarding the new law may do so through accessing the following web site: "www.dhfs.state.wi.us" and click on "News & Initiatives."

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Department of Regulation and Licensing
Physical Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board
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Madison, WI 53708-8935

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Automated Phone System for the Health Professions: (608) 266-2811

Press 1 Request Application
Press 2 Status of a Pending Application
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Press 4 Verifying Current Status of a Credential Holder
Press 5 Name or Address Change
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Request a Letter of Good Standing
Press 6 Repeat Menu Choices

Fax Number

(608) 261-7083

Verifications

All requests for verification of license status must be in writing. There is no charge for this service.

Endorsements

Requests for endorsements to other states must be in writing. The cost is \$10. Please make check or money order payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Digest on Web Site

December 1997, August 1998

PHYSICAL THERAPIST AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD DATE

July 14, 1999
September 15, 1999
November 2, 1999

Visit the Department's Web Site

<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/drl/>
Send comments to dorl@mail.state.wi.us

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Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Physical Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated December, 1998.

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WIS. STATS. S. 440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

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